

NSC review(s) completed.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 30, 1961

Dear Mr. Dulles:

I thought you might be interested in my conversation of today with Mikhail R. Sagatelyan, the TASS correspondent. We spent 15 minutes together in my office at his request.

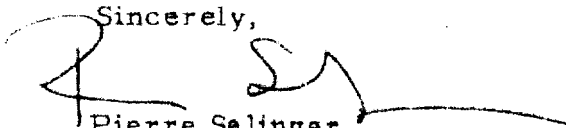
First, Mr. Sagatelyan wanted to host a luncheon in my honor along with the correspondents for PRAVDA and IZVESTIA. I agreed to join them for luncheon on Thursday, February 9th.

Further, he wanted to tell me that during the two months before the advent of President Kennedy, he had personally suppressed stories which he thought would be harmful to American-USSR relations. He said he had personally undertaken this because he felt keenly about the betterment of these relations. He also volunteered to "cooperate" with this office in an effort to bring about the betterment of these relations.

His "guess" is that there is a 50-50 chance that Khrushchev would come to the United Nations. He said it was merely a guess since Ambassador Menshikov did not tell "them" these things.

He then said that there were several minor irritations which the Soviet press were experiencing here but thought they could be resolved. For example: Yury Barsukov (IZVESTIA correspondent) and he had not had a visa since August. He said their visas were pulled since they refused to be fingerprinted. He refused to be fingerprinted since American correspondents to Russia were not; it was a matter of principle since only "crooks and prostitutes" in Russia were fingerprinted.

Sincerely,



Pierre Salinger
Press Secretary
to the President

copy to:
DCI
DDCI
DD/I
DD/P
Colonel Grogan

Honorable Allen W. Dulles
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

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